

Cracklin' Static

October 2020 Edition



**Zoom Virtual
meeting this
month
See page 4....**

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesday 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury Closing Balances
Account as of 9-23-20

Account

Operating	\$7,920
Savings	\$10,482
Self Insurance	\$9,238
PayPal	\$1,173
Convention	\$4,295

Total \$33,107

Net Monthly \$336
Net YTD \$5,025

Renewals 23

SNARS Membership as of 9-26-20

Extra	141	35%
General	123	31%
Technician	117	29%
Advanced	14	4%
No License	0	0%
License Expired	2	1%
Novice	1	0%
Total	398	

SNARS ARRL Members

Regular	222	56%
Life	39	10%

PRESIDENT'S VOICE

President John Byerly, N7ROJ

Email: mtnlion@gmail.com



Hello everyone!

So, Summer is over. We are into Fall. We still have no real direction in the COVID pandemic. What we DO know is that we still cannot have large groups of people, and for the foodies among us, we still cannot have a buffet with a meeting or otherwise.

So, we need to keep going with the virtual meetings on Zoom. It's the only way to have close to a normal "Get together" for now. I know many had hoped for a members get-together like a BBQ, maybe a swap meet, and a regular meeting. I had as well.

The other thing we have come up with and are working to im-

plement is Ham Radio night (formerly at the EOC) on Zoom as well.

There are also discussions of a Technician license class using the same format. When Tony returns from a well-deserved vacation, we are going to try to get that going where we can teach (and record) the classes, and have someone available for Q&A and discussion afterwards.

We have the SNARS Fusion repeater 146.610 now linked to the SNARS talkgroups, and are experimenting with linking to the W7XM repeater in Las Vegas so we can all bug Tony as well.

We will soon be voting for Board members, and on our updated bylaws. Voting will be electronic, and we will be able to post the results live at the meeting when voting closes.

"See" you all on Zoom and the airwaves!

73 John/N7ROJ





PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510
 Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Individual • \$50.00 Family
 775.453.4142 <http://snars.org>

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 Vice-President.....John Miller N7JDM
 Treasurer.....Bill Jones, AE7OX
 Secretary.....Anthony Marcin, W7XM
 DirectorWes Vick, KG7QXE
 DirectorJim Shepherd, W6US
 DirectorBarry Bettman, K6ST

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Cracklin StaticHowie Holden, WB2AWQ
 W7TA TrusteePeter DeBay, KE7VSR
 KR7ENO Trustee.....Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
 Control OperatorPat Sheehan, W7DED
 Youth Involvement.....Barry Bettman K6ST
 NVQSO Coordinator.....Jim Shepherd, W6US
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Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden WB2AWQ - holden7471@msn.com

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Published the week before meetings. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size, line spacing or other tools as may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 - PL 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 - PL 123.0	Winnemucca	Online
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks	Offline

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Offline

Fusion Systems

146.610 - PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Online

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online



Online



Offline



Not Linked

Thank you to our Sponsors/Supporters



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
 147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
 147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
 444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
 146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
 146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of Northern Nevada and Eastern California. Radio Checks and Questions are welcomed.

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
 147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

ERC Net for NV and Northern CA	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Thursday at 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on IRLP (GSR) System

Repeater: 147.300 + 123.0

Amateur Radio Newline	Monday - 8:00PM
Nevada Skywarn Net	Wednesday - 7:00pm
Nevada State ARES Net	Thursday - 7:00PM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Weak Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

**SNARS Weekly DMR Net – Tuesdays
 8:00PM**

SNARS Talk Group 31328

Open to Members and Guests. A general information net each week on DMR.

SNARS CALENDAR

**Ham Radio Night at the REOC Wednesday, is CAN
 CELLED until further notice**

**SNARS VE testing Saturday, Oct 3, Spanish Springs
 Library, 7100 Pyramid Hwy, Sparks, NV. 10AM. See
 page 5 for full details.**

**SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday, 6:00PM October
 14 Location and mode TBD**

**Next months SNARS Breakfast Meeting –
 November 7 Location and media mode tentative
 depending on Board decision and local restrictions.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As of 9-23-2020

ROBERT GROVER	KJ4FOJ
JOHN MCELDFOWNEY	KG7LBY
JASON BORSINI	W7BOR
EUGENE BALEME	N7FEM
MIKE DAKIC	KG4DDZ
AMY RASMUSSEN	KG7PXL

SNARS Virtual Monthly Meeting

SNARS (virtual zoom conferencing) Monthly Meeting 10-3-2020 8:00a PDT
Topic: ARRL Nevada Section Update (with section manager N7UR John Bigley)



TO REGISTER go to: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuc-ioqDgpEt2htT4kEP8aG-OWNPVudBFX>

Any questions, email Barry k6st@arrl.net

★ *The* ★
Nevada

QSO PARTY
RADIO PARTY ON THE AIR
OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2020

THE NEW IMPROVED NEVADA QSO PARTY IN OCTOBER!

The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society is proud to present the Nevada QSO Party which will be an annual event on the second full weekend in October. This year it will start at 2000 hours Nevada time (PDST) on Friday, October 9 (0300z 10/10/2020) and run until 1400 on Sunday, October 11 (2100z 10/11/2020)

The objective of this contest is to activate and work all 17 of the counties in Nevada. Nevada stations will work anyone, anywhere, and out of state stations will work Nevada Stations. All stations may be worked on the three different modes for up to three times on each HF band and only once on the VHF+ frequencies. Rovers in Nevada can be worked again when they change counties. The Exchange is simple, signal report (59 or 599) and your ARRL/RAC section for those outside of Nevada and the signal report and the 5 letter county code for those inside of the state.

The state of Nevada is one of the rarest U.S. States on the air. Be sure to work Nevada in the upcoming Nevada QSO Party; it will be helpful you when going for ARRL WAS (Worked All States award) and other awards like grid zones and counties.

The VHF+ band will consist of all legal frequencies from 50 MHz up to 1300 MHz. In order to bring a lot of new hams into contesting, we are allowing the use of repeaters on these frequencies. There are linked systems which will allow out of state contacts. All modes will be allowed.

On the HF side, Phone, CW, and Digital modes will add multipliers to the QSO points. All conversational digital text modes are al-

lowed with all counting the same. We are allowing the use of FT8 and FT4—Please read and understand the section on WSJT-X modes in the rules.

Logging software from N1MM will have the ability to work on this contest. For those that are using paper and pencil or some other logging method that does not produce a Cabrillo file, we also have the WA7BNM Cabrillo log maker which will allow you to build a Cabrillo file. All entries over 10 contacts must submit an electronic Cabrillo log.

We also have a sign-up form to allow stations to sign up for the counties which they will activate and what modes they will be using. We are going to try and get operators out in all counties and have all modes covered. Please use this form if you are going to be operating in Nevada.

The Nevada QSO Party website is <http://nvqso.com/> Complete rules are listed under the "Rules" tab and please read the FAQs for additional information.

Information is subject to change on the website so be sure to check back regularly. Please visit this site often and pass the word onto your friends! There is also a video explaining this contest and how to set up WSJT-X and N1MM+ at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLAmEr7S6eA>

We are looking forward to your participation in this contest!

For further information on this news release, contact Jim Shepherd at W6US@SNARS.ORG



AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TESTING



Ham Radio License Testing to be held outside the Spanish Springs Library in this table area, located at 7100 Pyramid Highway, Sparks, NV. REGISTRATION is REQUIRED and closes on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30th at 6:00p pdt, NO WALKS-INS. By the way, this is the last scheduled ham radio testing session for this year in the foreseeable future for the Reno/Sparks area, If you want to take a ham radio test on October 3rd, please fill out this registration form

below to reserve your spot. The cost for testing is \$15 per exam and bring a picture ID, and if you are already licensed bring a copy of your current ham radio license. Test takers bring a small simple 4 function calculator, pen, pencil with eraser, and a clipboard or a piece of cardboard to write upon as the tables are not a solid writable surface. Seating may be temporarily limited due to COVID-19

protocols. Social Distancing and Face Masks are REQUIRED! Questions? Email nn7k@arrl.net



Ham Radio LICENSE TESTING

Sat Oct 3rd: 10a, 11a, 12p
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by Sept 30th 6p PT
Register here ==> <https://bit.ly/33juOm2>

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd, W6US nvjims@gmail.com

ANTENNAS, ANTENNAS, ANTENNAS...

We all talk about ‘getting on the air’ and the most critical piece of equipment is the antenna. Antenna systems range from very poor like a well shielded dummy load to a very high gain resonant tuned one capable of moon-bounce with low power. There are lots of different designs and installation differences that can affect the performance of antennas.

A lot of hams start with some type of handheld radio now, and the ‘rubber ducky’ that is supplied has very definite limitations. It works well for short range communications with other similar radios, and if used properly, will put an acceptable signal into local repeaters. Proper use is holding the radio with the antenna plumb vertical with the radio’s mic at mouth level which puts most of the antenna above your head. Any tilting of the antenna from the vertical will decrease the signal received by the repeater or other station with a properly aligned antenna. Their next idea to improve the antenna is getting a longer aftermarket one... Now, keeping that bigger, floppy antenna vertical is more of a problem, and virtually impossible inside a vehicle, and any gain provided by that antenna is negated by the whip ending up in a near horizontal position.

A better solution is to use a properly mounted external antenna and a good feedline to the radio. A magnetic mount antenna on the roof of a vehicle will greatly improve your signal. Likewise, using a properly mounted antenna on your roof or a tower will help your signal from home. These antennas are omnidirectional and will cover everything you can see from their location.

The next step up is a directional antenna. These antennas focus the energy in a set direction. They can make a 5 watt walkie-talkie look like a 50-100 watt mobile radio to stations in the direction that it is aimed. However, there is no free lunch... In all of the other directions the signal is very weak and that also affects the received signals, so you may not hear someone a couple of blocks away using a handheld with a rubber duckie...

So much for the VHF+ radios—HF has a different set of conditions. You are no longer using signals that only go ‘line of sight’, but they bounce off of layers in the ionosphere and go thousands of miles. A simple half wave vertical without radials tends to have the peak power transmission and reception up at about 45 degrees above the ground level. This works well for contacts from a couple of hundred miles to a couple of

thousand miles depending upon the frequency and ionic conditions. Unless you are running a big final amplifier, you probably will not be talking into Carson City or Europe. Now, add 30-40 radials to that vertical, and it will lower that pattern, and that will allow your signals to improve at the longer distances. Since more power is bouncing around off the hills that you were previously shooting over, the folks in Carson may also hear you.

Moving on to a simple half wave wire dipole, it is somewhat directional perpendicular to its length. The elevation angle is dependent upon its height above ground, the higher the antenna the lower the radiation angle. On 10m, it is easy to get a full wavelength above the ground, and coupled with the low angle and good ionosphere conditions explains why the band is great for DX when it is open... We have started a new sunspot cycle, and this band will get better and better over the next few years.

The dipole on 160, 80, and 40 meters can be lowered to just above the ground and this brings the peak of the power to nearly straight up, and you now have a Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antenna. This is great for working stations within a couple of hundred miles of your location. Highly recommend one of these for the upcoming Nevada QSO Party to be able to catch other Nevada stations!

Directional gain antennas are a good way to improve the station. My inexpensive tribander at about 60’ high gives me about an “S” unit better receiving capability over my vertical... That can make the difference with a weak signal. It would be very expensive to get that “S” unit gain in a receiver. There are antennas that have another “S” unit increase in gain over my tribander, and then you can start stacking antennas for even better results.

Playing with antennas can be a lot of fun. Wire antennas are relatively inexpensive to build and can be hung from a variety of supports. Tall trees in Nevada are fairly rare in places where you need them, and the cost of building tall artificial supports seems to go up exponentially with the height. In a lot of places, HOAs and other restrictions can be a limiting factor, as is the amount of real estate needed for things like rhombics... Loop antennas and tape measure yagis also present some opportunities to improve your signal. There are lots of good references out there like the ARRL Antenna Handbook, and there is also good software to test designs without having to do any building. Experiment, and who knows, you might end up with an antenna named after you!

SNARS LOGO ITEMS

This year we are celebrating our 50th year by providing many ways to commemorate this occasion by imprinted our 50th



Stickers \$1.00 Each



16oz Coffee Mugs \$8.00



Hats \$10.00



Club Badge \$15.00

Order at
<http://snars.org/store/badge-order>

Items are available at the monthly meetings, events or online (coming soon) <http://snars.org/store>



MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FIFTY TWO

Mike Katz, N7MSK

Good shortwave listening

Good shortwave listening requires that you know the best hours to listen to various shortwave bands and frequencies. The frequencies between about 9 and 12 MHz can be heard reasonably well in areas of both darkness and daylight.

If the location where you live is currently in daylight hours, the best reception is likely to be from shortwave transmitter sites (their locations), which are also in daylight and which are on frequencies over 9000 kHz. If you are in a location which is presently in darkness, look for transmitter station frequencies which are also in darkness and which are on frequencies below 12000 kHz.

So in a nutshell, if you are listening in the sunlight hours at your location, tune around 9 to 12 MHz or even higher frequencies. (9000kHz to 12000kHz). If you are listening in the night time at your location, listen between frequencies below about 9MHz. (9000kHz) As an added note, you may find many ham radio operators on the 75/80 meter band between 3.5MHz to 4.0MHz. Use the lsb mode on your receiver to receive them. Tune the voices carefully. If you use the AM mode on your receiver, you will hear nothing but garbled voices! (from www.hamuniverse.com/shortwave.html)

(Editor's note: At this time of sunspot minimum and transition from solar cycle 24 to 25, you might revise your listening range to include even lower frequencies, particularly at night.)

SHORT TAKES (By Jim Shepherd W6US)

Ham Radio Night, First Wednesdays

Have been discontinued until we can safely have meetings. We are working on doing some ZOOM meetings to help with Elmering!

Contest Calendar

October signals the start of the main Fall contest season. The first weekend is the California QSO Party. There are 58 counties in California and they all will be on the air for the contest. It starts at 9am on Saturday and runs until 3pm on Sunday and will be SSB and CW on all the regular HF bands. For the rules and other information, go to <http://www.cqp.org/index.html>. The next weekend is the NEVADA QSO PARTY and we expect ALL members to get on the air!!! See the article elsewhere in the Static for details. October 24-25 is the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest and this is a good time to get some

countries for your DX Century Club award as there will be lots of rare ones on the air. You can get the full information about other contests at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

DX

Some of the countries that will be on the air during the month are Jan Mayen, Ogasawara, Svalbard, Palau, Surinam, Luxembourg, Kosovo, and Sable Island. There are lots of other stations who might be on the air from their home QTH operating as they are in the same situation that we are with Covid19. Additionally, the big DX contest will bring out a lot more. This should be a good month for DX!!! More information can be found at <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

NAME THAT RIG

(Answer on page 13)



YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. The world's largest Scout - Ham Radio event promoting friendship and global citizenship! October 16th - 18th, 2020.



made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on

the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

More Info:

<http://www.arrrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

This year, we could support the Scouts with "Jamboree on the Air" either in person with social distancing, and or remote on the radio or via virtual teleconferencing. Please take a few minutes to email me mail to: k6st@arrrl.net as to your

interest. I am sure SNARS can positively influence some scouts to become engaged in ham radio.

73,

Barry K6ST k6st@arrrl.net

Nevada Section Youth Coordinator

ARRL (American Radio Relay League)

www.arrrl.org The national association for amateur radio

What is JOTA?

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than a million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). During the 2014 event, worldwide Scouting participation included 1.1 million Boy Scouts and 200,000 Girl Guides/Girls Scouts, for a total participation of over 1.3 million--the largest Scouting event in the world.

Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts



W7SSB's FUN STUFF

EDITOR's NOTE: Don's column will appear when he has time to send me stuff. He's been a busy man of late (that's good!). So enjoy when the opportunity arises.

WOLF HONG LEGEND (Lee Jennings ZL2AL)



The Wouff Hong – HamRadio Folklore or fact?

At the conclusion of the 1962 ARRL Canadian Convention in Toronto I was pounced upon just before midnight, blindfolded and forcibly removed to another room in the hotel. My blindfold was removed and in the creepy candlelight ceremony that followed, I was inducted into the **R.O.W.H (Royal Order of the Wouff Hong)** by a panel of my peers. The Ham who signed the certificate is a SK and in thinking back to that time 45 years ago most of my heroes and peers are all SKs. I have no doubt that the principles of the organization are still alive.

So to those of you that practice “rotten operating” or other nefarious practices in front of a microphone or a key beware! The dark forces of the awful terrible Wouff Hong may be applied to you. You may run the misfortune of being savaged with a Rettysnitch for your lax operating practices and suffering the tortures of the damned from the awful terrible Wouff Hong. Think about that the next time you are in a pileup, or forget to check your “split” button. Ponder the consequences of calling out of turn. 20Db of compression will surely bring the wrath of all those who have passed before us upon you. The **R.O.W.H** still lives on.

73, Lee ZL2AL

The Wouff Hong and the Rettysnitch: Lost Traditions? – by L. B. Cebik W4RNL (SK)

“The Wouff Hong is amateur radio’s most sacred symbol and stands for the enforcement of law and order in amateur operation.” “The Rettysnitch is used to enforce the principles of decency in operating practices.” (The Radio Amateur’s Handbook, 1930, p.11)



The Awful Terrible Wouff Hong

By 1930, the Handbook had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared, and by 1947, the Handbook had deleted both photos. Just when we needed traditions of law and order and of decency in amateur operations to guide its growth in the post World-War-II explosion of technology and easier licensing, the symbols had disappeared from view. Many of today’s hams have no idea what a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch look like. To rectify that gap in hamdom’s essential history, I have used my very limited CAD abilities to make sketches of the Rettysnitch in Figure 1. The Rettysnitch is an all-metal tool. Of the 5 teeth around the disk near the pointed end, only three remain.



The Rettysnitch

According to tradition, the other two have done their work and perished in the effort. Again, my limited skills in rendering the Rettysnitch rob the device of its terrible demeanor, and therefore of its force to ensure operating decency among amateurs. Perhaps the last time the story of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch was told was in 1934. Thanks to Ed Guilford, AA7HQ, in Bothell, Washington, I have the May, '34, QST in which Rufus P. Turner—famous in the annals of electronics writings recounted “Hamdom’s Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts.” But even by Turner’s time, the Rettysnitch was relegated to a paragraph on the story’s continuation page in the back of the magazine, with no picture. Somehow, even then, folks had forgotten that you can never have law and order without first having decency.

Here is a very interesting historical link to the **Queen Mary** and ham radio. <https://signaltribunenewspaper.com/17090/news/living-legends-unsung-heroes-long-beach-resident-changed-ham-radio-history/>

We need to know our hobby's history and carry it forward before we lose it! Stay tuned!

73, Don W7SSB

MORE FIELD DAY DOINGS



Editor's note: I will run this column as long as FD efforts by SNARS members come to light.

FIELD DAY 2020 by Dave Thompson AG7TX (Continued from last month....last part)



I flew the Mavic Mini once over Dry Lake. The altitude was too much for the little drone, but I managed a few captures before it decided to land.

I woke early Sunday, again. When the light rises, so do I. As before, I started water for coffee and stepped outdoors to greet the day. Although the image was made early Monday, this was my view each morning on Dry Lake.

I turned on the radio, enjoyed my coffee, and made a couple of contacts. I made breakfast

for us again and got

Sera out for a short walk and some exercise. I knew it was going to be windy again Sunday, perhaps worse than Saturday. So I check my equipment again to be sure it was secure.

I operated a combination of phone and CW the remainder of the morning. About 1030h local I was tired and done. I shut down the radio and Sera and I got out for a walk and a visit. The others were gathered at Greg's Place and the wind was UP!

It was a good visit. Eric and Wes were mostly torn down and getting ready to leave for home. Greg and I were not about to wrangle out camps in the wind and dust so were prepared to stay over until Monday. I contemplated staying an extra day and enjoying camping. I was not really ready to go home.

Sunday afternoon was pretty rough. The trailer rocked and buffeted in the wind. There was a lot of dust blowing in great clouds as well. My part of the event ended at 1100h local, so I turned on the generator, ran the air conditioner a little, took a nap, listened to music, and read.

One of the solar panels blew over, even though it was lashed to the camper. The second set of panels blew over as well, damaging the props a little. Everything still functioned, but I laid them flat on the ground to prevent them falling again.

Greg came up for a visit, bringing cookies! I shared some of my treats with him and we visited about the weekend and things. It was a good visit, again, and one of the reasons I continue to go out on expeditions with these friends. They are good people and good operators.

The wind fell a little with the Sun, so I got Sera out and we made another pass through the hummocks for some exercise. The sunset was gorgeous again and I saw a smear of smoke to the northwest, at a high altitude. That meant there was a fire out there somewhere.

Fire is a big hazard in the west. I remember them from my childhood in California. There have been several since I came to Nevada. It is a danger of living here and one to take seriously.

I listened to the radio a little more Sunday evening. I heard an Australian station calling and taking calls. After he worked a big pileup, I called and he answered. We had a nice chat for a few minutes. He asked a lot of questions about Nevada. It was fun.

I turned in, satisfied with the Field Day operations and thinking about whether to stay another day or go home.



As Sera and I made our last circuit around the camp area for this trip, I stopped and made this capture of the area and my rig, all ready to go.

headed out for home.

Monday morning came and there was little wind. I made coffee and breakfast and then dressed to go take down the military mast and wire antenna. I decided to go home while sleeping Sunday night. I could tell that Greg was ahead of me and sure enough he came by about 0930h to check on me. After confirming that my 4Runner would start, he

Sera pattered about the hummocks while I finished taking down the equipment. In the process of lowering the mast, it got away from me

Continued next page.....

FIELD DAY DOINGS (continued from pg 10)

and split two of the fiberglass segments. They will have to be repaired or replaced. But everything else went fairly well, if a little slowly.



These old bones were at the camp area last year. They are a little more scattered this year. Sera enjoyed them.

With everything loaded up and the camper hooked up to the 4Runner, I decided to make one last walk around the campsite. Given we were alone, I took off my shirt to get a little sun on this old white body and started my tracker. Sera was so excited. We started off toward the south and walked along the perimeter of the hummocky area. She darted from hummock to hummock, returning on call. She is such a happy dog and a joy to have in my life.

With the work done, I could relax and just enjoy the site. So, that is what I did. The weather was about perfect. The sun was warm, but the air temperature was about 55F. Without the sun I would have been cold without a shirt. With the sun shining so brightly, it was wonderful.

After the boneyard, we came across this monument. It was there last year when we camped here at Dry Lake. I do not know what the significance might be. But it is certainly interesting and worth a photograph. I actually think this would be a good site for a geocache. Sera ran all over the hummocks. I followed along, keeping an eye on her and enjoying watching her run to and fro. When called in, she got a little scratch or pat on the head or butt (or both), then ran away again to go back to the hunt.



I noticed this knowing what the significance might be.

I enjoyed walking the perimeter. I stopped and made a few photographs with my iPhone as we walked. The sky was just gorgeous and the contrast of the white clay with the blue sky was striking.

I also thought about the lessons I learned from the trip. There are always lessons to be learned. Here are some lessons I learned:

- Be sure that the generator has enough oil in it after an oil change.
- Bring extra oil for the generator (I did).
- Bring spares for the generator. (I have them; put them in the kit.)
- Assemble a small mechanics toolkit for the camper. It should include both SAE and metric wrenches and sockets. Some appropriate screwdrivers and maybe some simple test equipment would be useful.
- Work on my technique for lowering the mast. I think it was more operator error than anything else. I also think I can do better on lowering the mast.
- Bring spare charge controllers for the camper and the station. I had a spare for the station and that was a good thing.
- Have a set of jumper cables in the 4Runner.
- The failure of the Buddipole Mini was not expected. I knew I would have to call about that. I also knew I would want that unit or a similar unit in my inventory so I can track my station power usage and determine if I have enough battery and charge capacity for my application.

As we drew back to the 4Runner and camper, I knew this trip was about over. Sera "monument" last year. I do not was ready for some water and to get into the rig. I was ready for some water and to head home. I would not be satisfied until the rig was unloaded, or mostly unloaded when we got home. I also wanted a shower and some downtime after all the busy-ness of the last few weeks. But, I was (and am) a happy old man.



After Greg's departure and me finishing the loadout, Sera and I walked around the campsite one last time. The sun was warm and no one was around, so I went shirtless.

73, Dave AG7TX

NV QSO PARTY BOOSTER

October is one of those "mega-state" QSO party months, with SEVEN state QSO parties. **California** is on the 3rd. It will be interesting to see how many CA stations can get on the air after all the fires. It's also incumbent on us here in NV to help make their party a success, particularly since CA is a big part of our success, and I'm sure some of the WA and OR stations who make the western QSO parties big may not be able to get on the air for the same reason. Besides the morale boost, CA stations constitute a significant part of contacts made in OUR QSO party. Let's show 'em how it's done!

Of course, our own QSO party is the 10th-11th, so we need SNARS members to come out in force! Be sure to register your station on the website www.nvqso.com and be a part of a growing, successful NV QSO party! Besides **Nevada** that weekend, **Arizona, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota** all have their QSO parties as well. AZ and SoDak use the same format as we do, so multi-contest exchanges there should be easy. PA, however, is looking for a serial number. I'd suggest just adding a sequential SN (just for PA) to the usual exchange, and ask for EPA or WPA?, or look up their county to determine. **New York** has their QSO party on the 17th, and **Illinois** is on the 18th.

So QSO party hearty!

FUN STUFF FOR OCTOBER

October has two ARRL/NCJ sponsored contests, which qualify for the Gavel award, shown in BOLD. NVQSO is Oct 10-11.

3 Oct 0600 to 4 Oct 0600 1.8-28 Oceania DX Contest, Phone
www.oceaniadxcontest.com

3 Oct 1400 to 4 Oct 0200 All YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest CW Ph Dig
www.ylrl.org/wp/dx-na-yl-contest

3 Oct 1600 to 4 Oct 2200 1.8-28 California QSO Party CW Ph
www.cqp.org/Rules.html

3 Oct 1800 to 4 Oct 1800 All SKCC QSO Party CW
www.skccgroup.com

10 Oct 0000 to 11 Oct 2359 50-1296 ARRL EME Contest CW Ph Dig
www.arrl.org/eme-contest

10 Oct 0001 to 10 Oct 2359 28 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint CW Ph Dig
www.ten-ten.org

10 Oct 0300 to 11 Oct 2100 1.8-UHF Nevada QSO Party CW Ph
www.nvqso.com/contest-rules

10 Oct 1500 to 11 Oct 0459 1.8-144 Arizona QSO Party CW Ph Dig RS (T), county or SPC
www.azqsoparty.org

10 Oct 1600 to 11 Oct 2200 1.8-UHF Pennsylvania QSO Party CW Ph
www.paqso.org

10 Oct 1800 to 11 Oct 1800 1.8-144 South Dakota QSO Party CW Ph Dig
www.sdqsoparty.com

17 Oct 1400 to 18 Oct 0200 All New York QSO Party CW Ph Dig
www.nyqp.org

17 Oct 1500 to 18 Oct 1500 1.8 Stew Perry Topband Challenge CW
www.kkn.net/stew

18 Oct 1400 to 21 Oct 0800 1.8-144 Classic Exchange, Phone
www.classicexchange.org

18 Oct 1700 to 19 Oct 0100 1.8-144 Illinois QSO Party Ph
www.w9awe.org/ILQP.html

19 Oct 1300 to 23 Oct 2359 All ARRL School Club Roundup CW Ph
www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup

24 Oct 0000 to 25 Oct 2359 1.8-28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB Ph
www.cqww.com/rules.htm

See <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/October%202020%20Corral.pdf> for a complete list of contests.

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase! We're still seeing the effects of Covid-19, so the list is still small. Here's the list some of the rarer DX operations going on in September. Nothing terribly exotic but nice stuff to grab. The DX locations are looking a bit better, but I'd still check to see

SNARS - Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society, Inc—<http://snars.org>

which ones actually take place:

Oct 03 to Oct 06 Ogasawara JD1BLY

Oct 07 to Oct 15 Palau T88UW

Oct 19 to Oct 28 Kosovo Z66DX

Oct 19 to Oct 28 Sable I CYO

Check <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> for updates on DXpeditions!

RENO QRP SLOW SPEED CW NET

NET REMINDER RENO QRP SLOW SPEED CW NET

Keep in touch with your QRP buddies on the NET

NEXT NET SESSION WILL BE TUESDAY October 6, 2020

TIME 10:00 AM

Target frequency is 7.045 MHz If not in use, if busy search somewhere near that frequency.

The following should always be in your report.

NAME RST LOCATION RIG POWER ANTENNA.

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE RST IN YOUR REPORT

Feel free to add something else in your exchange.

Take some time to report RST for other OP's or anything else that comes to mind.

Sharing information about you and your equipment will accomplish two things.

First It gives you and everybody else practice sending and copying.

Second It is nice to spend time on the air with your friends. Consider this a QRP meeting on the air.

Relax and have some airtime fun with your friends.

73/72

Ed/WD7Y

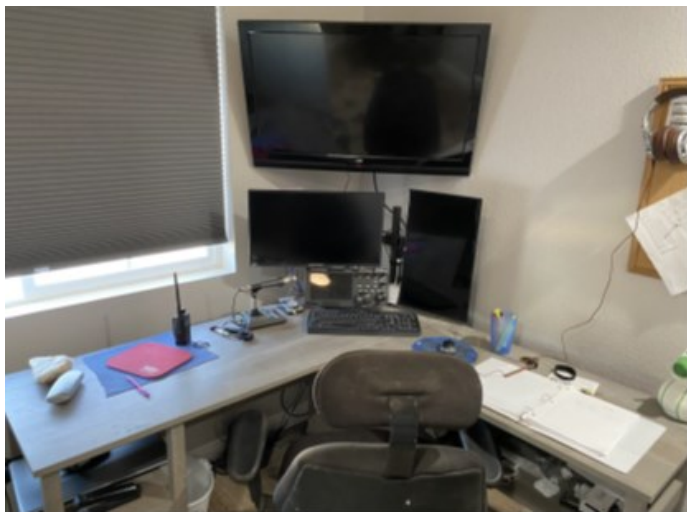
NAME THAT RIG (from page 8)

In the early 1950s the **Cosmos Industries Co.**, a manufacturer of military radio components and subassemblies explored developing their own transceiver for the Amateur community. After approaching several manufacturers, they decided to build in house. The result was the **Cosmophone 35 transceiver**. This was the first Amateur **all-band transceiver ever, preceding the Collins KWM-1 and -2 by several years**. It ran AM, SSB, and CW. It contained not one, but two receive sections along with the transmitter section into one cabinet. Each receive section could control the transmit section, or each could be operated on separate frequencies. 24 tubes were used (29 if you count the separate power supply needed), in 35 different stages. This rig incorporated both a mechanical filter, and a Q-multiplier for very sharp selectivity, high stability, covered all bands 80 through 10 including the CB band, and many functions could be controlled or selected from the front panel. The transmitter used a single 6146, for 35 watts out. Unfortunately, Cosmos sold fewer than 100 of these, then the Collins KWM-2 came out and killed their market. It was just too much radio and too complicated for its time. Plus, at \$799 not including power supply (about \$7400 today) it didn't fit into too many budgets. Cosmos tried to up the power, and even built a unit with a full KW, but none were ever sold.

W7NIK HAMSHACK

I am Nick W7NIK ham operator for 30 years, I have had Yaesu FT-101, 920, 747, 857, Icom IC-706, 746, 756, 7600, Kenwood TS-2000, 950 etc. I have had many radios over the years until one day Icom decides to upgrade the Firm ware on the 7600. I downloaded the firmware and the radio became a different radio. That is the day I thought about Flex. The Flex 6500 radio has the best receiver panadapter I have seen on the market. This radio has algorithms, SDR, and filters that are amazing . The mic side has balance connection option.

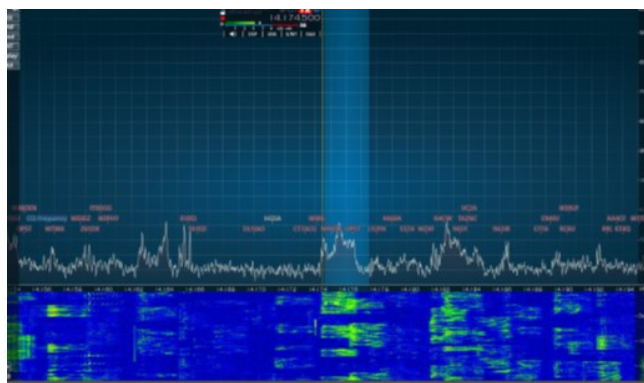
I have designed my site to be remote in a closet. All the wires and coax are under the shack. A pocket door hides all the wires. I also use 400 cfm exhaust fan piped into the return of my AC/ HVAC. In winter I get heat from the equipment, and summer the heat is part of the summer house load.



Nick's main operating position



The remote control panel is the Flex Maestro.



The Maestro display



Two pix of Nick's remote equipment, operated by the Maestro

The spots on the panadapter are just so awesome. Contest software feeds the radio with spots.

The Flex 6500 drives a SPE Expert 1K-FA Amp. The SPE Experts amps are just another story in itself, full automatic with a built in antenna tuner. No need for a tuner. also run WaveNodes RF sensors for power out and SWR viewing at all times. (WaveNodes HF-1 and UHF-1 sensors).

I also have a FT 450 for camping and portable operations.

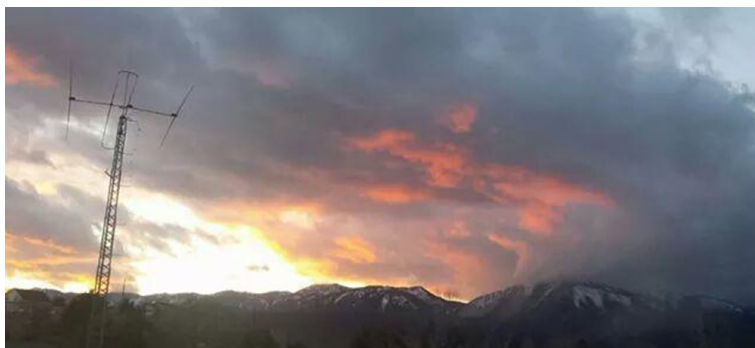


Photo of Nick's Steppir setup at his Washoe Valley QTH, in the hills just east of Washoe Lake (plus a spectacular NV sunset...)

Antennas: Steppir 3 element at 50 feet (15 meters), with the 40 m add-on kit. Antenna for 80/160m is a tuned fan dipole, X configuration for 160M and 80M.

(Editor's note: If you'd like to have your shack featured here, email me! WB2AWQ@arrl.net)



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020 - 6:00PM

At Chin Chin plus Zoom

1. Call to order and roll call at 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

Anthony Marcin, W7XM	P	Barry Bettman, K6ST	P	John Miller, N7JDM	P
Bill Jones, AE7OX	P	John Byerly, N7ROJ	P	Wes Vick, KG7QXE	P
Jim Shepherd, W6US	P	Doug Edmondo, W7DBE	P		

Guest(s) In attendance: There were no guests in attendance

2. Approval of Minutes - Discussion/Action

The board approved the August 12, 2020 meeting minutes

3. Approval of Agenda - Discussion/Action

The board approved the meeting minutes for September 9th.

4. Reports

A. President's Report – Dave Metz is donating the M3 repeater from Red Peak to the club. John and Pat will decide which repeater to replace; likely the 030 machine on VP.

Lots of work on Ophir and Davidson to get the DC power systems installed. John test the new rectifiers really good stuff. John has also obtained a Web Relay for remote control of the system; including load shedding.

B. Secretary Report

1. Membership Status – 402 members
2. Getting ready for upcoming Board of Director elections. Nominations to go out the end of September and will close early October. Ballots will go out electronically the end of Oct. Tony will issue a Mini Static.

C. Treasurer

1. Net Monthly \$(366) Net YTD \$4,690, Renewals 21
2. Financial Report – as of August 31, 2020: Checking: \$7,053 Savings: \$10,377 Paypal: \$2,019
Conv: \$4,295 Self-Ins: \$9,028
3. Numbers driven by the purchase of the new DC Rectifiers. We also received our \$150 deposit back from the cancelled Field Day reservations.
4. The board discussed fees for life membership due to a member inquiry.

D. Technical Team – Nothing to report (See presidents report)

E. Control Operators / Trustee – Nothing to report

F. Events None

G. Education & Youth Activities

Barry looking to do something for Jamboree on the air but didn't have anything pinned down as of the meeting.

H. Noon Net - Noon Net Manager; status quo

5. Old Business

- A. Members Only Website – No change
- B. By Laws – They will go out for vote with the BOD election
- C. Discussed sending Pats wife a thank you card

6. New Business

- A. The board approved a Zoom account for the chapter
- B. Wes discussed doing a virtual Tech Night
- C. Jim noted a noise issue with VP. John indicated Pat will be replacing the link package
- D. John is going to get a Splash Top account for control of the Fusion machine.

7. Public Comments

Doug mentioned he is in the process of setting up a Net specific to CERT. Doug will ask for board permission once a scheduled time has been determined – Doug will manage this net.

8. Adjournment - Action

- A. Next Meeting: October 14, 2020. Location TBD
- B. Call For Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned.